

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 21, 22, 38 and 39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable over the cited prior art if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

New independent claim 49 corresponds with allowable dependent claim 6, rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 2, 4 and 5. Claims 1, 2 and 4 – 6 have been canceled.

New independent claim 50 corresponds with allowable dependent claim 7, rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claims 2, 4 and 5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 have been canceled.

New independent claim 59 corresponds with allowable dependent claim 21, rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of base claim 16 and intervening claims 17, 19 and 20. Claims 16, 17 and 19 – 21 have been canceled.

New independent claim 60 corresponds with allowable dependent claim 22, rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of base claim 16 and intervening claims 17, 19 and 20. Claims 16, 17, 19, 20 and 22 have been canceled.

New independent claim 71 corresponds with allowable dependent claim 38, rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of base claim 33 and intervening claims 34, 36 and 37. Claims 33, 34 and 36 – 38 have been canceled.

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New independent claim 72 corresponds with allowable dependent claim 39, rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of base claim 33 and intervening claims 34, 36 and 37. Claims 33, 34, 36, 37 and 39 have been canceled.

Accordingly, it is requested that new independent claims 49, 50, 59, 60, 71 and 72 be allowed.

Dependent claims 3, 8, 10 and 13 – 15 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 49.

New dependent claims 51 – 58 depend, directly or indirectly, from new independent claim 50 and are substantive replications of dependent claims 3, 8 and 10 – 15, respectively.

Dependent claims 18, 23, 25 and 28 – 32 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 59.

New dependent claims 61 – 70 depend, directly or indirectly, from new independent claim 60 and are substantive replications of dependent claims 18, 23 and 25 – 32, respectively.

Dependent claims 35, 40, 42 and 45 – 48 have been amended to depend from new independent claim 71.

New dependent claims 73 – 81 depend, directly or indirectly, from new independent claim 72 and are substantive replications of dependent claims 35, 40 and 42 – 48, respectively.

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Claims 1 – 5, 8 – 14, 16 – 20 and 23 – 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Surace et al. (U.S. 6,144,938) in view of Polikaitis et al. (U.S. 6,336,091) and further in view of Martin et al. (U.S. 5,553,121).

Claims 3, 8, 10 – 14, 18, 23 and 25 – 31 presently depend, directly or indirectly from an allowable independent claim as set forth herein above. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20 and 24 are canceled.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 15, 32 – 37 and 40 – 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Surace et al. in view of Polikaitis et al. and Martin et al., and further in view of Everhart et al. (U.S. 6,240,347).

Claims 15, 32, 35, 40 and 42 – 48 presently depend, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim as set forth herein above. Claims 33, 34, 36, 37 and 41 are canceled.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant believes, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

Please charge the fee for new Claims 49 through 81 to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Please charge the fee of \$120 for the one month extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Gordon Lewis", is written over a horizontal line.

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